

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRIDGE 02204 112052Z

67

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 SS-15

NSC-05 L-03 H-02 JUSE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 USIE-00 SY-05 MCT-01 /069 W

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O R 111957Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1744

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRIDGETOWN 2204

CARACAS FOR LEGAL ATTACHE

PASS TO WILLIAM HENDRICKS, NTSB, CENTRAL INVESTIGATON
DIVISION, AVIATION ACCIDENT BRANCH (AI-11)

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, BB, CU

SUBJECT: JUDICIAL INQUIRY, CUBANA CRASH

1. SUMMARY OF TODAY'S SESSION OF INQUIRY FOLLOWS. THE ENTIRE MORNING WAS DEVOTED TO WRECKAGE EXAMINATION AT THE AIRPORT. THERE IS ABOUT 1,400 POUNDS OF RECOVERED WRECKAGE INCLUDING PORTIONS OF THE CABIN INTERIOR, CONTROL SURFACES, ONE NOSE GEAR, ONE MAIN GEAR. A PORTION OF THE INSIDE WALL OF THE TOURIST CLASS NUMBER 3 LAVATORY AND THE ADJACENT NUMBER 4 LAVATORY DOOR WAS RECOVERED. THE INSIDE WALL OF THE NUMBER 3 LAVATORY IS COVERED WITH SOOT, IS HEAT DAMAGED AND THERE ARE NUMEROUS PUNCTURES OF ITS SURFACE. THE NUMBER
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3 LAVATORY DOOR IS SOOTED AND HAS SOME HEAT DAMAGE BUT NO

PUNCTURES OF ITS INSIDE OR OUTSIDE SURFACE WAS NOTED.
SMALL PORTIONS OF THE COCKPIT DOOR AND ITS ADJACENT WALL
WHICH WERE RECOVERED DO NOT SHOW ANY HEAT DAMAGE AND ARE
NOT SOOTED.

2. AFTER THE AIRPORT EXAMINATION, THE INQUIRY WAS RESUMED
BACK IN THE COURTROOM WITH AN EXPLANATION OF THE LOCATION
OF THE WRECKAGE RECOVERED. AFTER THIS THE POLICY SGT. WHO
RECEIVED ALL WRECKAGE AND PERSONAL EFFECTS INTO CUSTODY WAS
QUESTIONED REGARDING THE PROCEDURES TAKEN IN RECEIVING THE
MATERIAL AND IDENTIFYING IT. PROCEDURES FOLLOWED IN ALLOWING
MR. ERIC NEWTON, THE BRITISH SABOTAGE EXPERT, TO TAKE
SOME OF THE WRECKAGE AND PERSONAL EFFECTS RECOVERED
WERE ALSO QUESTIONED.

3. TO DATE 13 OF A TOTAL OF ABOUT 32 WITNESSES HAVE BEEN
QUESTIONED. IF THE HEARING CONTINUES ON SCHEDULE IT SHOULD
BE COMPLETED BY FRIDAY 19 NOVEMBER.

4. AT PRESENT THE ATMOSPHERE IS RELAXED WITH MINOR PLAY
BETWEEN THE LAWYER REPRESENTING CUBA AND THE LAWYER REPRE-
SENTING BRITISH WEST INDIES AIRLINES.

BRITTON

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED.

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NNN

Message Attributes

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04 MAY 2006

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To: STATE
Type: TE
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